



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

July 28, 2008

Reply To
Attn Of: ETPA-088

Ref: 08-030-NOA

Donna Darm, Assistant Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115

Dear Ms. Darm:

The EPA has reviewed the **Proposed Authorization of the Makah Whale Hunt Draft Environmental Impact Statement** (EIS) in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Section 309, independent of NEPA, specifically directs EPA to review and comment in writing on the environmental impacts associated with all major federal actions. Under our policies and procedures we evaluate the document's adequacy in meeting NEPA requirements.

The EIS evaluates five alternatives considering various components of the hunt including the time when whale hunting would occur, the number of whales harvested, locations where hunting would be restricted, and the number of strikes that would be permitted. The EIS identifies Alternative 2 as the Proposed Action. Alternative 2 would allow hunting between January 1 through May 31, in the Makah Tribe's usual and accustomed hunting area west of Bonilla-Tatoosh line 1, allow for a total of 5 whales harvested each year with no more than 20 whales harvested in five years.

We have assigned a rating of LO (Lack of Objections) to the draft EIS. This rating and a summary of our comments will be published in the Federal Register. A copy of the rating system used in conducting our review is enclosed for your reference.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (206) 553-1601.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine Reichgott, Manager
NEPA Review Unit

Enclosure